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ag awareness

NEWS

Autumn 2004

Dear Ag Ambassadors,

Welcome back!

In education as in agriculture, autumn is a season where every hour is at a premium. We hope this newsletter will provide a few time saving ideas and resources to help get your year off to a smooth start. All the best to you and your students as you explore learning together! If you have questions about these items, or our other educational materials, please contact:

Brent Andressen:
Phone: 780-427-4225
e-mail: brent.andressen@gov.ab.ca
Lori McRae:
Phone: 780-427-4582
e-mail: lori.mcrae@gov.ab.ca

'Virtual Agriculture'

The Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education at the University of Alberta (IONCMASTE), promotes excellence in teaching, research and curriculum excellence in **school science.** The searchable database for resources from partners and curriculum resources listing are valuable assets for teachers planning their science programs!
http://www.ioncmaste.ca/homepage/index.html

Fight Bac is a program providing students with practical tips to help ensure **food safety in the classroom** and at home. http://www.fightbac.org/main.cfm
You can order materials in Canada, in both English and French at: http://www.canfightbac.org/english/fight_bac/fightbace.shtml

Education and Agriculture combine to provide the opportunity for great **field trips**. Such tours present the teacher with an opportunity to bring students into direct contact with the farm community. Use the links in the left-hand column to find farms near you.
http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/agritour.nsf

If you are interested in setting up a **school milk program** in your elementary classroom, Alberta Milk can help!
http://www.albertamilk.com/nutritioneducation/elementary.aspx?g=&k=

Food For Thought

This issue of "Food For Thought" contains stress-busting suggestions and delightful recipes that will help you hang on to that summer feeling all year long! There is also practical information about food safety and gardening, and a section "just for kids".

Agriculture Statistics

For the latest statistics regarding agriculture in Alberta, please see the enclosed "Agriculture Statistics Factsheet". The trends revealed by the numbers provide a very interesting reference for secondary Social Studies students examining economic and social trends in current events.

Your first step in agriculture training – Green Certificate

Green Certificate

High school students are always searching for intriguing learning opportunities to help them decide their future career paths. Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development is working with Alberta Learning to provide just such an opportunity through the Green Certificate program. Green Certificate provides hands-on learning in seven areas of agriculture specializations: field crop, dairy, cow-calf, irrigated crops, sheep, feedlot and swine. Students work with a mentor to master the required skills and knowledge and certified Green Certificate testers assess the trainees at the end of each training period. Successful trainees can ultimately earn sixteen 33-level diploma credits.

At the high school level, the Green Certificate program operates under the supervision of a school representative, usually the teacher responsible for career counselling. This teacher works closely with the Green Certificate regional coordinator to schedule orientations, training events, testing and program administration. The Program also collaborates with Alberta's agriculture colleges (Olds College, Lakeland College, Lethbridge Community College, and NAIT) to deliver the program to the schools in each region.

For more information about the Green Certificate Program, please contact the Provincial Green Certificate Program Coordinator, Raelene Ostrom, (780) 427-4183 or e-mail raelene.ostrom@gov.ab.ca, or find on-line information at: www.agric.gov.ab.ca/greencertificate

Farm Safety

Enclosed in this mailing is a copy of "Farm Safety- It's No Accident", a comprehensive CD promoting safety on the farm. Major topics include safety planning, equipment use, shop safety, as well as chemical handling and proper protective clothing. Teachers of Work Experience, Career Internship or CTS will find that the video clips, safety hints, and comprehensive checklists provide vital information for secondary students living and working on farms, as well as urban students who visit farms.

If you instruct Health/Career and Life Management classes to rural elementary students, "Farm Safety Fun" will help you meet Safety and Responsibility outcomes for several grades. Multiple copies of "Farm Safety Fun" are available.

To order either resource, please call Julie @ 780-427-4187 or email: julie.splawinski@gov.ab.ca

Upcoming Conferences

The Ag Education and Training Branch will be at the Social Studies and Science Specialist Conferences. If you are attending one of these, please stop in at our display.

Stubble Jumper

Coming soon to UFA and Peavey Mart stores is an exciting new agriculture board game called "Stubble Jumper".

Players make key decisions to manage a modern farm and gain a clear understanding of how weather and market trends affect their profits and ultimately the survival of their operation. "Stubble Jumper" is appropriate for ages 9 to adult but students of Grade 4 Social Studies Topic A and Grade 5 Science Topic D might find it particularly interesting.

For more information about the game and where you can get a copy, contact Larry Bokenfohr @ 780-973-6042.

Please stay in touch!

We lose contact with many of our Ambassadors as time passes. When you change schools or districts, or if your school has a new Ambassador, please complete and send us this 'Agriculture Ambassador Network' form and we will be able to continue sending you our newsletter.

Agriculture Ambassador Network

Please help us keep the network together. If you have had a recent address change or your Ambassador has moved to another school just fill out the form below so your school can continue to receive the benefits of the network.

Address Change ☐ School Change ☐

Original Ambassador ☐ New Ambassador ☐

Teacher name: _____

School name: _____ Phone: _____

Fax: _____

School address: _____

E-mail: _____

_____

Town/province: _____ Postal code: _____

Let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions for special events in your area - We'll see how we can help!

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
Agriculture Awareness Program
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